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Sent: 1/25/2018 2:01:14 PM
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Subject: [External] Atlantic Coast Pipeline - Economic Benefit Hearings Needed
Attachments: Report on the ACP Failure to Demonstrate Economic Development Benefit.pdf

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Dear Governor Cooper and Staff,

I am writing to respectfully request three public hearings, sponsored by NC DEQ, to address the recent and unsatisfactory economic development concerns, claims, and submissions by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). We know that you care about the environment of our State. We have seen this with your courageous stand against offshore drilling. Please continue to care as much about our most vulnerable environment and most vulnerable populations - the indigenous people, the people of color, and so many others in eastern NC who live along the route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. We strongly urge you to take as strong a stand against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline as you have done with offshore drilling.

Unfortunately, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline chose the worst possible route in the State for its proposed pipeline. ACP considered other routes earlier, but just like our coastal communities that you are protecting, those earlier routes would have taken the pipeline closer to wealthier and less racially diverse communities. The pipeline has used economic development as its major justification, arguing that the pipeline will be a benefit to the people in the 8 counties in its path. But in its thousands of pages of submissions to NC DEQ and others it has failed to provide persuasive data or details to support this claim. (Please see attached report "ACP Failure to Demonstrate Economic Development Benefit")

The NC Department of Environmental Quality has been asking ACP questions about this claim since September and ACP has repeatedly sidestepped the inquiries. I am writing to request that the DEQ immediately hold public hearings in Robeson, Cumberland, and Johnston Counties regarding the ACP's economic development claims and submissions. These hearings will enable you, the DEQ, and the Attorney General's office to hear public input about these important questions, and to review it as a part of the 401 Water Quality Permit application.

I respectfully ask that you authorize the Attorney General to IMMEDIATELY direct DEQ to initiate public hearings to address the economic development concerns and other concerns, claims, and submissions by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

Kind Regards,

Joe Bearden
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